

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

Our national news media (i.e. the television networks) are already corrupted and don't give unbiased news because they have become part of large corporate conglomerates. By easing restrictions on how many radio, tv stations, or newspapers one entity can own, we will lose any chance of unbiased or dissenting news coverage. Loosening these rules seriously jeopardizes the first amendment right of Freedom of the Press.

The airwaves belong to the American People. All of them, not just the wealthy. I have not seen any evidence of conglomerates promoting any diversity of thought or ideas. If anything, they restrict them. We even have ideological censorship imposed on the news. For instance, Ted Turner telling staff at CNN they had to use the term "international" not "foreign." GE squelched reporting by NBC news that would hurt its business.

While there is a "proliferation of outlets" to a certain extent, due to the internet, the fact is that 90 percent of the American public uses TV as its main, if not sole, source of news.

I grew up in the DFW area, and I can remember when Amon Carter owned the NBC affiliate (WBAB), the major radio station (also WBAB) and the only newspaper (Ft. Worth Star Telegram). There was a reason this media monopoly was broken up, and it's just as valid today as it was then.